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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/524,205	08/02/2005	Andreas Kohl	PC10496US	9988
23122	7590	11/25/2009		
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482			EXAMINER SICONOLFI, ROBERT	
			ART UNIT 3657	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/25/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/524,205

**Applicant(s)**

KOHL ET AL.

**Examiner**

ROBERT A. SICONOLFI

**Art Unit**

3657

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Amendment filed on 1/02/08 has been received.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim element "means for monitoring... and determining" is a means (or step) plus function limitation that invokes 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. However, the written description fails to disclose the corresponding structure, material, or acts for the claimed function. The claim and specification fails to disclose the structure that performs such function.

Applicant is required to:

- (a) Amend the claim so that the claim limitation will no longer be a means (or step) plus function limitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph; or
- (b) Amend the written description of the specification such that it expressly recites what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)).

If applicant is of the opinion that the written description of the specification already implicitly or inherently discloses the corresponding structure, material, or acts so that

one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize what structure, material, or acts perform the claimed function, applicant is required to clarify the record by either:

- (a) Amending the written description of the specification such that it expressly recites the corresponding structure, material, or acts for performing the claimed function and clearly links or associates the structure, material, or acts to the claimed function, without introducing any new matter (35 U.S.C. 132(a)); or
- (b) Stating on the record what the corresponding structure, material, or acts, which are implicitly or inherently set forth in the written description of the specification, perform the claimed function. For more information, see 37 CFR 1.75(d) and MPEP §§ 608.01(o) and 2181.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofsaess et al. in view of Newton et al.

Hofsaess et al. teach an electrohydraulic brake system for motor vehicles of the brake- by-wire' type including a hydraulic pressure source that can be actuated by means of an electronic control unit and is comprised of a hydraulic pump (7) driven by an electric motor and a high-pressure accumulator (13) adapted to be recharged by the

pump. However, Hofsaess et al. do not teach wherein a means is provided for monitoring the hydraulic delivery rate of the pump and determining quantities of gas or air at the suction side of the pump based on the monitored hydraulic delivery rate. Newton et al. teach a means is provided for monitoring the hydraulic delivery rate of the pump and determining quantities of gas or air at the suction side of the pump based on the monitored hydraulic delivery rate. (Figure 1, Column 1, lines 23-26) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine quantities of gas or air at the suction side of the pump in order to optimize operation of the system.

Regarding claim 17, Hofsaess as modified does not disclose the monitoring of the power consumption of the pump to determine the hydraulic delivery rate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to monitor the power consumption to determine the hydraulic delivery rate instead of monitoring the voltage. The power consumption and voltage are proportionally related and one of ordinary skill would choose what to monitor based on convenience.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 1/2/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the Newton et al would not have been considered by somebody in the art as it is not in a relevant field. The basis of this argument appears to be the intended use of the device of Newton et al. Applicant cites column 1 lines 9-15

which disclose that "**Illustrative** of such fields are the pumping of physiological liquids in the medical field and ... chromatography systems." (emphasis added). The examiner notes that this list is not meant to be an exclusive list to the use of Newton et al's invention. Further, the disclosure is directed to a pump system in general. The examiner feels that the art is reasonably pertinent since it is trying to solve the problem of controlling flow through a pump.

6. Applicant further argues that Newton et al teaches detecting gas on the outlet side of the pump not the suction side. It is not clear on what the applicant has based this statement

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to ROBERT A. SICONOLFI at telephone number (571)272-7124.

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